

Message Text

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43

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 5569

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINR, RO

SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU ADJUSTS RCP PERMANENT BUREAU

REF: BUCHAREST 5531

1. IN FIRST POST-PARTY CONGRESS SURPRISE, CEAUSESCU HAS MORE THAN HALVED SIZE OF PREVIOUS RCP PERMANENT BUREAU AND INCLUDED FOUR OF HIS CLOSEST SUPPORTERS. THE BUREAU BECOMES, EVEN MORE THAN BEFORE, AN ELITE INNER CABINET SUBORDINATE TO CEAUSESCU, ALTHOUGH IN THEORY IT ACTS "TO ASSURE OPERATIVE COORDINATION OF PARTY AND STATE ACTIVITY" WITHIN LIMITS SET BY PARTY POLITICAL-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (POLEXCO).

2. POLEXCO DECISION PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 30 ELECTED TO BUREAU ONLY CEAUSESCU, PRIME MINISTER M. MANESCU, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS
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G. OPREA (INDUSTRIALIZATION) AND I. PATAN (FOREIGN TRADE),

AND PARTY SECRETARY S. ANDREI (FOREIGN AFFAIRS).

3. MOVE FOLLOWS TREND SET IN MARCH WHEN CEAUSESCU ENGINEERED ABOLITION OF RCP PERMANENT PRESIDIU (POLITBURO) ALLEGEDLY TO IMPROVE "EFFECTIVE COORDINATION" AND GOT RCP STATUTE CHANGED SETTING UP 10-PLUS-MEMBER PERMANENT BUREAU, IN THEORY CHOSEN BY THEN-EXCO BUT BY STATUTE INCLUDING STATE POSITIONS OCCUPIED BY CEAUSESCU INTIMATES. THAT DOWNGRADED FURTHER SEVERAL EX-PRESIDIUM MEMBERS THOUGHT LESS INCLINED TO FOLLOW CEAUSESCU UNCRITICALLY. NEW NARROWED BUREAU LOPS OFF TWO MORE FROM TOP OF PYRAMID -- RADULESCU AND BODNARAS.

4. SMALLER BODY IS IN LINE WITH CEAUSESCU'S OBSESSION TO CREATE MORE EFFICIENT EXECUTIVE GRIP THROUGH STEP-BY-STEP MOVES THIS YEAR TOWARD MORE STREAMLINED PERSONALIST AUTOCRACY. YUGOSLAV AMB TOLD US EARLIER THAT LARGER BUREAU "HAD NOT WORKED OUT WELL" BECAUSE IT TENDED TOWARD DUPLICATION OF EFFORT. CEAUSESCU WILL CLEARLY NOW BE EVEN LESS TRAMMELED THAN BEFORE WITH COUNSEL FROM BROADER PARTY LEADERSHIP. SIGNIFICANT IS CEAUSESCU'S CONCENTRATION ON ECONOMY'S PROBLEMS IN BUREAU'S MAKEUP -- EVIDENTLY TO SPUR NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND COPE WITH TURBULENCE OF WORLD ECONOMY. MANESCU, PATAN AND OPREA (WHO NOW MAY WELL BE NUMBER ONE ECONOMIC FIGURE AFTER CEAUSESCU HIMSELF) ALL HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ROMANIA'S ECONOMIC DEALINGS WITH WEST, FACT WHICH SPOTLIGHTS TRADE AS CRITICAL TO SUCCESS OF GOR'S AMBITIONS AS WELL AS A CHIEF PROBLEM AREA.

5. NOVEMBER 29 POLEXCO DECISION ALSO REPLACED STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE CHIEF EMIL DRAGANESCU WITH MIHAI MARINESCU, 57, FORMERLY MINISTER OF MACHINE BUILDING AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, LATELY DEPUTY TO PARTY SECRETARY ILIE VERDET AT CENTRAL WORKERS CONTROL COUNCIL. DRAGANESCU, WHO AS FAR AS WE KNOW HAS NOT LOST FAVOR, STAYS AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TO "COORDINATE CERTAIN ECONOMIC SECTORS". WITH NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN SET UNDER DRAGANESCU'S GUIDANCE, CEAUSESCU MAY WISH TO USE HIM IN TOP-LEVEL INDUSTRIAL FOLLOW-THROUGH ROLE, ONE OF GOR'S CHRONIC WEAKNESSES, BUT HOW THIS MAY IMPINGE ON OPREA'S UNTIL-NOW BROAD SUPERVISORY PORTFOLIO IS UNCLEAR.

BARNES

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